

**IN THE CLAIMS**

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims have been presented whether or not an amendment has been made.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for management and configuration of remote agents, comprising:

providing at least one web service; [[and]]

detecting, by the at least one web service, at least one remote agent on a network by retrieving agent metadata from a plurality of network devices based on one or more detection parameters; and

performing at least one of managing and configuring the at least one remote agent based on the at least one web service.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [[a]] the at least one remote agent comprises a web service based management interface, wherein the web service based management interface allows a manager to remotely examine and configure the at least one remote agent.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the manager remotely examines and configures the at least one remote agent through a central management console.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one remote agent is configured to run across a firewall, a proxy server, and/or a virtual private network.

5. (Currently Amended) A system for management and configuration of remote agents, comprising:

at least one remote agent; [[and]]

at least one web service for detecting at least one remote agent on a network by retrieving agent metadata from a plurality of network devices based on one or more detection parameters; and

a manager for performing at least one of managing and configuring at least one remote agent based on the at least one web service.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, wherein [[a]] the at least one remote agent comprises a web service based management interface, wherein the web service based management interface allows a manager to remotely examine and configure the at least one remote agent.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the manager remotely examines and configures the at least one remote agent through a central management console.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, wherein the at least one remote agent is configured to run across a firewall, a proxy server, and/or a virtual private network.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium including computer executable code for management and configuration of remote agents, comprising:

code for providing at least one web service; [[and]]

code for detecting, by the at least one web service, at least one remote agent on a network by retrieving agent metadata from a plurality of network devices based on one or more detection parameters; and

code for performing at least one of managing and configuring the at least one remote agent based on at least one web service.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein [[a]] the at least one remote agent comprises a web service based management interface, wherein the web service based management interface allows a manager to remotely examine and configure the at least one remote agent.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein the manager remotely examines and configures the at least one remote agent through a central management console.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein the at least one remote agent is configured to run across a firewall, a proxy server, and/or a virtual private network.

13. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving at least one alert notification from the at least one remote agent, the at least one alert notification comprising an indication of a change to the at least one remote agent.

14. (New) The system of claim 5, further comprising a notification manager for receiving at least one alert notification from the at least one remote agent, the at least one alert notification comprising an indication of a change to the at least one remote agent.

15. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 9, further comprising code for receiving at least one alert notification from the at least one remote agent, the at least one alert notification comprising an indication of a change to the at least one remote agent.